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# STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S.D.A. .... Washington, D. C. .... August 26, 1954 ..... SS141

## Total Crop Prospects Declined 5% During July

Production prospects declined during July for many of the later-growing crops. Searing temperatures and short rainfall were rather general over much of the country, with the adverse effects varying from light to severe. Cotton appears to have withstood adverse conditions well, but soybeans, peanuts, sorghum, and broomcorn suffered some damage. Yields of barley, rye, rice, dry beans, dry peas, tobacco, sugarcane, and sugar beets improved. Winter wheat was mostly harvested before it could be much affected. But for corn, spring wheat, hay, and a few other crops, prospects declined. The aggregate volume of all crops expected as of August 1, was about 5 percent less than on July 1.

## Relatively Small Corn Crop Indicated

Corn production prospects declined about 15 percent during July to 2,824 million bushels. The hot, dry weather came at the critical tassel and silk stages, with the result that considerable corn can be used only as silage or forage.

## Corn Hybrid Use Apparently Leveling Off

Annual increases in the proportion of hybrid seed corn used in the last 2 years have been relatively small. From 84.6 percent of the corn acreage planted with hybrids in 1952, the increase was to 86.6 percent in 1953 and to 87.1 percent in 1954.

## All-Wheat Crop Prospects 13% Below Average

Winter wheat was mostly harvested by August 1, except in the more northerly areas. The outturn was slightly better than expected earlier, and the estimate of 776 million bushels is  $17\frac{1}{2}$  million more than on July 1.

Spring wheat prospects declined nearly one-eighth during July. The indicated 201.6 million bushels would be about 30 percent less than the 1953 crop. The total wheat crop is now expected to be about 13 percent below average.

## Other Grains

A record oats crop is still foreseen, although the total dropped about 1 percent during July to 1,529 million bushels. The barley crop is estimated at 373 million bushels, the second largest ever produced. Prospects of sorghum for grain remain very uncertain, as most of the acreage is in dry areas, much was planted late, and the outcome depends on current rainfall. The forecast of 136 million bushels barely exceeds average. A record crop of rice is now estimated at 61.4 million 100-pound bags.

## Smaller Cotton Crop

The 1954 cotton crop is forecast at 12,680,000 bales--23 percent smaller than the 1953 crop and 2 percent above the 10-year average.

## Tobacco Improved During July

Tobacco withstood the July weather remarkably well; in fact, widespread local showers improved yields some during July in the flue-cured areas. An outturn of 2,105 million pounds is now forecast, more than either 1953 or the average, with a near-record yield of 1,290 pounds per acre.

## Hay, Pastures, and Ranges are Poor

Hay supplies now look disappointing after reverses caused by July drought and heat. The 101 million tons now estimated provides less hay than usual per animal unit. Forage scarcity may result in a number of areas. Hay feeding has started early where pastures failed. However, heavy general rains could improve yields of late hay cuttings. Pasture feed on August 1, at 59 percent of normal, is lowest for the date since the 1936 drought. Western range feed condition is rated the lowest for August since the drought of 1934 and, except for that year, shows a record decline during July.

## Current Indexes for Agriculture

Index Numbers	Base Period	July, 1954
Prices received by farmers.....	1910-14=100	247
Prices paid by farmers, interest, taxes & wage rates.....	1910-14=100	280
Parity ratio.....	1910-14=100	88
Farm wage rates.....	1910-14=100	505
Wholesale prices of food.....	1947-49=100	106
Retail prices of food.....	1947-49=100	115
Weekly factory earnings.....	1947-49=100	133

## Production Comparisons

Item	Jan. -July, 1953	Jan. -July, 1954
Milk (bil. lb.).....	75.1	77.7
Eggs (bil.).....	38.6	39.9
Beef (dr. wt., mil. lb.).....	14,397	14,704
Pork & lard (mil. lb.).....	15,015	14,544
Lamb & mutton (dr. wt., mil. lb.)...	1,316	1,321
All meats (dr. wt., mil. lb.).....	110,086	119,980

<sup>1</sup> January-July under Federal inspection.

## Oilseeds

Supplies of oilseeds will be almost as large as last year. Largest contributor is the prospective record 304 million bushels of soybeans. The 46 million bushels of flaxseed will be third-largest of record. The cotton crop of 12.7 million bales, slightly above average, would indicate about 5.2 million tons of cottonseed. A relatively small outturn of 1,268 million pounds of peanuts is now indicated on the restricted acreage.

## Fruit

Deciduous fruit prospects, in the aggregate, declined only 1 percent during July and remained slightly higher than in 1953, although 8 percent below average. Harvest of the 1953-54 California Valencia oranges, summer grapefruit, and lemons is progressing satisfactorily. In all areas, 1954-55 citrus crops developed well during July.

## Vegetables

Commercial vegetables and melons for summer market in most areas suffered some damage from hot, dry weather, and prospective tonnage is 3 percent less than in 1953. Supplies of vegetables for commercial processing will be relatively small this season.

## July 1 Grain Stocks in all Positions

	Mil. bu.	
Wheat	903	Record large July 1 stocks.
Rye	14	Largest since 1944.
Corn	1,403	Record carryover; 11% over July 1953.
Oats	234	20 mil. bu. less than year ago.
Sorghum	31.6	(off-farm only) 4 times as large as year ago.
Barley	71	38% more than year earlier.
Soybeans	33.2	Smallest July stocks since 1948.
Flaxseed	13.8	Year ago, 10 mil. bu.
Feed grain stocks are a tenth larger than a year ago.		

## More Eggs and Milk Than in July 1953

Farm flocks laid more eggs than in any other July of record. Production during the first 7 months of 1954 totaled 39,888 million eggs--3 percent more than in 1953 and 4 percent above average.

Milk production in July took a sharp seasonal downturn. It was affected by poor pasture feed and high temperatures. July production of 11,625 million pounds was the largest for that month since 1947, although barely exceeding that of 1953.

## Fewer Milk Cows on Farms

Milk cows on farms numbered 22.5 million head in June, about 1-1/2 percent more than in June 1953, but about the same as in December 1953. This leveling off in milk cow numbers in the last 6 months contrasts with the moderate uptrend that started in early 1952 and extended through 1953.

## More Cattle on Feed July 1

The 11 Corn Belt States on July 1 had 5 percent more cattle on feed for market than a year earlier. Although estimates have not been made for all States, indications point to an increase of about 5 percent also for the country as a whole. About 74 percent of the July inventory is expected to be marketed before October 1 if feeders carry out their July intentions.

## More Lambs in 1954

The 1954 lamb crop totaled 20,170,000 head, 3 percent more than in 1953. This is the fourth successive increase over the preceding year since the

## Prices Received and Prices Paid by Farmers

Index Numbers, 1910-14=100

Item	July 15, 1953	June 15, 1954	July 15, 1954
Prices received by farmers .....	260	248	247
Crops .....	237	244	248
Food grains .....	218	216	225
Feed grains and hay .....	204	205	202
Tobacco .....	426	445	446
Cotton .....	270	274	272
Fruit .....	193	240	228
Coml. veg. for fresh mkt. ....	252	200	243
Oil-bearing crops .....	268	283	286
Livestock and products .....	280	251	247
Meat animals .....	319	299	286
Dairy products .....	261	229	237
Poultry and eggs .....	223	168	171
Prices paid by farmers:			
All commodities .....	261	<sup>1</sup> 265	263
Commodities used in living ....	271	<sup>1</sup> 276	277
Commodities used in production .	250	252	247
All commodities, interest, taxes, and wage rates .....	<sup>1</sup> 278	282	280
Parity ratio (prices received to prices paid by farmers) .....	<sup>1</sup> 94	88	88

<sup>1</sup> Revised.

## Parity Prices for Farm Products and Average Prices Received by Farmers

Commodity and unit	Average price		Parity price
	June 15, 1954	July 15, 1954	July 15, 1954
Wheat, bu. .... dol.	1.91	2.00	2.50
Corn, bu. .... dol.	1.49	1.50	1.82
Peanuts, lb. .... ct.	11.2	11.2	13.6
Cotton, Amer. upland, lb. .... ct.	32.31	32.18	35.09
Potatoes, bu. .... dol.	1.51	1.49	1.50
Hogs, 100 lb. .... dol.	21.70	21.20	20.60
Beef cattle, 100 lb. .... dol.	16.90	15.80	21.00
Calves, 100 lb. .... dol.	17.50	16.10	23.20
Lambs, 100 lb. .... dol.	20.30	19.50	22.80
Butterfat, lb. .... ct.	55.9	55.7	74.2
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb. .... dol.	3.49	<sup>1</sup> 3.69	4.70
Chickens, live, lb. .... ct.	22.6	22.4	29.7
Eggs, doz. .... ct.	32.9	34.4	46.5

<sup>1</sup> Preliminary.



record low lamb crop of 1950. This year's lamb crop is 13 percent above the 1950 low, but is still 10 percent below the 10-year average.

### Shorn Wool Production Below Average

Shorn wool production in 1954 is estimated at 229 million pounds--slightly less than in 1953 and 14 percent less than the 1943-52 average. The average weight of 8.56 pounds per fleece is an all-time high, but the increase over 1953 was not enough to offset the decline of 3 percent in the number of sheep shorn.

### Net Farm Income

A new report, "Farm Costs and Returns, 1953," Agricultural Information Bulletin No. 128, gives information on production, income, and costs on several important types of farms in the U.S. The following table gives estimates of net farm income in recent years:

#### Net Farm Income, Commercial Family Operated Farms, by Type

Type of Farm and Location	Net Farm Income		
	1947-49 average	1952	1953 <sup>1</sup>
	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>
Dairy farms:			
Central Northeast .....	3,892	3,956	3,316
Eastern Wisconsin .....	4,350	4,711	3,926
Western Wisconsin .....	3,290	3,925	3,166
Corn Belt farms:			
Hog-dairy .....	5,639	6,211	5,895
Hog-beef raising .....	3,370	4,457	3,280
Hog-beef fattening .....	10,665	8,787	6,982
Cash grain .....	8,930	9,248	7,656
Tobacco-livestock farms:			
Kentucky Bluegrass .....	3,334	3,976	3,457
Cotton farms:			
Southern Piedmont .....	1,564	1,596	1,263
Delta of Mississippi .....	2,839	3,076	2,949
Black Prairie, Texas .....	3,118	3,067	3,578
High Plains, Texas (nonirrigated) .....	6,411	2,434	-25
High Plains, Texas (irrigated) .....	10,761	13,768	10,736
Spring wheat farms (No. Plains):			
Wheat-small grain-livestock .....	6,323	3,760	3,780
Wheat-corn-livestock .....	5,850	2,611	3,749
Winter wheat farms:			
Wheat-pea (Washington and Idaho) ...	11,864	14,210	13,538
Sheep ranches:			
Northern Plains .....	6,908	5,890	4,649
Cattle ranches:			
Northern Plains .....	6,466	5,942	3,464
Intermountain region .....	8,656	10,995	4,619

<sup>1</sup> Preliminary.

Agricultural Research Service.

### Farm Real Estate Taxes Higher

Total taxes levied on farm real estate in 1953 (payable largely in 1954) were 5.4 percent higher than they were in 1952. This is the 11th consecutive year in which these taxes have increased. In 1953, levies totaled \$866 million compared with \$822 million in 1952. These levies were about 17 percent higher in 1953 than they were in 1950.

Taxes levied per acre of farm real estate averaged \$0.81 in 1953, compared with \$0.77 in 1952. The index of taxes levied per acre in 1953 compared with the base period 1909-13 was 391. The tax per \$100 of real estate value was \$1.00 in 1953, \$0.90 in 1952, and \$0.84 in 1951.

### Farm Employment Drops

There were 9,238,000 persons working on farms in the week of July 18-24--about 400,000 fewer than a month earlier. The drop was greater than usual for the season, but was about the same as last year.

The number of family workers in late July dropped a little less than usual from a month earlier; the number of hired workers dropped 2 percent from a month earlier, compared with a 3-percent increase last year and an average increase of 14 percent for the previous 5 years.

### Prices Received and Prices Paid Down

The index of prices received by farmers declined 1 point during the month ended July 15 to 247 percent of its 1910-14 average. Lower prices for beef cattle, hogs, and deciduous fruits were nearly offset by higher prices for commercial vegetables, milk, wheat, and eggs.

Declining farm production costs lowered the parity index (prices paid, interest, taxes, and wage rates) 2 points from mid-June to 280 percent of the 1910-14 average. Prices paid by farmers for family living items rose to a new high, offsetting part of the downturn in prices of production goods.

### CURRENT ESTIMATES

Estimates of cash receipts from farm marketings will be published in the Farm Income Situation September 9, 1954.

### Farm-Retail Price Spreads

Marketing Margin and Farmer's Share of the Consumer's Dollar for Market Basket of Farm-food Products

Year and month	Retail cost <sup>1</sup>	Farm value <sup>2</sup>	Marketing margin	Farmer's share
1953 average .....	\$1,002	\$452	\$550	45 %
1953--June .....	1,010	448	562	44
1954--May .....	989	439	550	44
June <sup>3</sup> .....	987	418	569	42

<sup>1</sup> Retail cost of average quantities of farm foods purchased per urban wage-earner and clerical-worker family in 1952, calculated from retail prices collected by Bureau of Labor Statistics.

<sup>2</sup> Payment to farmers for equivalent quantities of farm produce minus imputed value of byproducts obtained in processing.

<sup>3</sup> Preliminary.

For comparisons with earlier months and years see The Marketing and Transportation Situation.

**Farm production: Index Numbers of Total Output,  
Gross Production of Livestock and Crops, by  
Groups, and Related Indexes, United States<sup>1</sup>**

(1947-49 = 100)

Item	1953	Indicated 1954 <sup>2</sup>
Farm output .....	108	106
All livestock and products <sup>3</sup> .....	114	119
Meat animals .....	114	120
Dairy products .....	106	109
Poultry and eggs .....	127	132
All crops <sup>4</sup> .....	103	98
Feed grains .....	101	99
Hay and forage .....	107	106
Food grains .....	96	84
Vegetables .....	100	96
Fruits and nuts .....	100	104
Sugar crops .....	107	112
Cotton .....	115	89
Tobacco .....	102	104
Oil crops .....	101	112
Feed used by farm horses and mules <sup>5</sup> .....	57	51
Cropland used .....	100	100
Crop production per acre <sup>6</sup> .....	103	98
Animal units of breeding livestock <sup>7</sup> ..	103	107
Livestock production per breeding unit <sup>7</sup>	111	111

Prepared jointly by Agricultural Research Service and Agricultural Marketing Service.

<sup>1</sup>For historical data and explanation of indexes, see "Changes in Farm Production and Efficiency," PERB 3, ARS.

<sup>2</sup>Indications for 1954 based on August 1954 "Crop Production" report and other releases of the Agricultural Estimates Division, AMS.

<sup>3</sup>Includes minor livestock products not included in the separate groups shown.

<sup>4</sup>Includes production of some miscellaneous crops not in separate groups shown.

<sup>5</sup>Hay and concentrates only. Not included in farm output.

<sup>6</sup>Index of crop production per acre is a ratio of total crop production to total land used for crops. It differs from the AMS index of yields per harvested acre of 28 crops.

<sup>7</sup>Animal units and production exclude horses and mules.

**Comparative Balance Sheet of Agriculture,  
United States, January 1, 1952-54**

Item	1952	1953	1954
<b>ASSETS</b>			
	<i>Bil.</i>	<i>Bil.</i>	<i>Bil.</i>
	<i>dol.</i>	<i>dol.</i>	<i>dol.</i>
Physical assets:			
Real estate .....	93.7	<sup>1</sup> 92.7	87.6
Non-real estate:			
Livestock .....	19.6	<sup>1</sup> 14.8	11.9
Machinery and motor vehicles .....	<sup>1</sup> 17.5	<sup>1</sup> 18.5	18.7
Crops stored on and off farms <sup>2</sup> .....	8.8	<sup>1</sup> 9.0	9.1
Household furnishings and equipment <sup>3</sup> .....	9.3	10.0	<sup>4</sup> 10.6
Financial assets:			
Deposits and currency .....	13.8	<sup>1</sup> 13.9	13.9
United States savings bonds .....	4.9	5.0	5.1
Investments in cooperatives .....	2.5	2.7	2.9
Total <sup>5</sup> .....	<sup>1</sup> 170.1	<sup>1</sup> 166.6	<sup>4</sup> 159.8
<b>CLAIMS</b>			
Liabilities:			
Real estate debt .....	6.6	7.2	7.7
Non-real-estate debt:			
To principal institutions:			
Excluding loans held and guaranteed by C. C. C. ....	4.1	4.2	3.8
Loans held and guaranteed by C. C. C. ....	.6	1.2	2.4
To others <sup>6</sup> .....	3.2	3.4	3.2
Total liabilities <sup>5</sup> .....	14.5	16.0	17.1
Proprietors' equities <sup>5</sup> .....	<sup>1</sup> 155.6	<sup>1</sup> 150.6	<sup>4</sup> 142.7
Total <sup>5</sup> .....	<sup>1</sup> 170.1	<sup>1</sup> 166.6	<sup>4</sup> 159.8

<sup>1</sup>Revised.

<sup>2</sup>Includes all crops held on farms for whatever purpose and crops held off farms as security for Commodity Credit Corporation loans. The latter on January 1, 1954, totaled \$1.6 billion.

<sup>3</sup>Estimated valuation for 1940, plus purchases minus depreciation since then.

<sup>4</sup>Preliminary.

<sup>5</sup>Total of rounded data.

<sup>6</sup>Includes individuals, merchants, dealers, and others. Estimates based on fragmentary data.

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